

Message Text

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72

ACTION EUR-25

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R 201600Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8983

INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MOSCOW 7558

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, UR, US, CB

SUBJ: RED STAR ON U.S. COMBAT AID TO PHNOM PENH

1. SOVIET ARMY DAILY RED STAR COMMENTARY ON MAY 19 SUMMARIZES MILITARY SITUATION IN CAMBODIA, EMPHASIZING GKR RELIANCE ON U.S. AID AND PICTURING CONTINUED EXISTENCE OF GKR AS DEPENDING ON THE RAPID ONSET OF THE RAINY SEASON TO SLOW DOWN THE VICTORIOUS ADVANCE OF THE "PATRIOTIC" FORCES.

2. COMMENTARY STATES THAT DURING PAST SEVEN MONTHS OF THE DRY SEASON, THE GKR HAS SUFFERED TENS OF THOUSANDS OF CASUALTIES, HAS SEEN ALL MAIN ROADS CUT BY ITS ADVERSARIES, AND REMAINS IN CONTROL OF ONLY TEN PERCENT OF THE NATIONS'S TERRITORY. IT UNDERLINES MAY 16 DECLARATION OF STATE OF EMERGENCY, AND NOTES WITH SARCASM THAT LON NOL HAS HELICOPTER READY AT ALL TIMES FOR QUICK ESCAPE.

3. QUOTING LONDON TIMES THAT GKR CONTINUES TO EXIST ONLY BECAUSE OF U.S. MATERIAL AID, COMMENTARY DETAILS U.S. CONTRIBUTION TO DEFENSE OF KAMPOL. DEFENSE EFFORT
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WAS ALLUDED TO INCLUDE U.S. AIRDROPS OF AMMUNITION AND

PARTICIPATION IN DEFENSE BY U.S. ADVISORS. COMMENTARY, CITING WASHINGTON POST FOR ITS INFORMATION, STATES THAT DEFENSE OF THE PORT WAS UNDER THE ACTUAL COMMAND OF "A MEMBER OF THE APPARATUS OF THE U.S. AIR ATTACHE", MAJOR L. ONDECKER (PHONETIC). ONDECKER, ACCORDING TO THE COMMENTARY, DIRECTED MILITARY ACTIONS AND DESIGNATED ARTILLERY TARGETS, REQUESTING REINFORCEMENTS, MILITARY HARDWARE, AND AMMUNITION "THROUGH THE U.S. EMBASSY IN PHNOM PENH".

4. COMMENT: WHILE SOVIET PRESS HAS MADE NO BONES OF LATE ABOUT U.S. MATERIAL SUPPORT OF GKR, THIS EMPHASIS ON DIRECT U.S. PARTICIPATION IN MILITARY ACTIONS, AND ROLE OF EMBASSY IN THESE ACTIONS, IS AN ESCALATION OF RHETORIC.
STOESSEL

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